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Mission impossible? Biden says Mideast leaders must consider a two-state solution after the war ends

By AAMER MADHANI,
CHRIS MEGERIAN, WILL
WEISSERT and SEUNG MIN
KIM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As the 3-week-old Israeli-Hamas war enters what Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says could be a "long and difficult" new stage, President Joe Biden is calling on Israeli and Arab leaders to think hard about their eventual postwar reality.

It's one, he argues, where finally finding agreement on a long-sought two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict should be a priority.

"There's no going back to the status quo as it stood on Oct. 6," Biden told reporters, referring to the day before Hamas militants attacked Israel and set off the latest war.



FILE - President Joe Biden talks to reporters aboard Air Force One during a refueling stop in Germany Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2023, as he travels back from Israel to Washington.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci, File)
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Mission impossible? Biden says Mideast leaders must consider a two-state solution after the war ends

Continued from Front

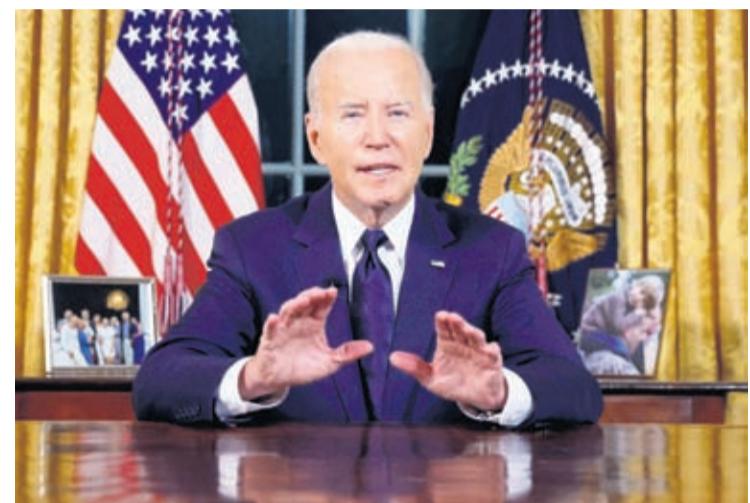
The White House says Biden conveyed the same message directly to Netanyahu during a telephone call this past week.

"It also means that when this crisis is over, there has to be a vision of what comes next, and in our view it has to be a two-state solution," Biden said.

The push for a two-state

solution — one in which Israel would co-exist with an independent Palestinian state — has eluded U.S. presidents and Middle East diplomats for decades. It's been put on the back burner since the last American-led effort at peace talks collapsed in 2014 amid disagreements on Israeli settlements, the release of Palestinian prison-

ers and other issues. Palestinian statehood is something that Biden rarely addressed in the early going of his administration. During his visit to the West Bank last year, Biden said the "ground is not ripe" for new attempts to reach a permanent peace even as he reiterated to Palestinians the long-held U.S. support for statehood.



FILE - President Joe Biden speaks from the Oval Office of the White House Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023, in Washington, about the war in Israel and Ukraine.

(Jonathan Ernst/Pool via AP, File)

Now, at a moment of heightened concern that the Israel-Hamas war could spiral into a broader regional conflict, Biden has begun to emphasize that once the bombing and shooting stop, working toward a Palestinian state should no longer be ig-

nored. Until recently, Biden had put far more emphasis on what his administration saw as the achievable ambition of normalizing relations between Israel and its Arab neighbors than on restarting peace talks. □

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Robert E. Lee statue that prompted deadly protest in Virginia has been melted down

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP) — A statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee that was a focal point of a deadly white nationalist protest in 2017 has been melted down and will be repurposed into new works of art.

The Jefferson School African American Heritage Center, a Charlottesville-based Black history museum, said Thursday that the statue had been destroyed.

The Charlottesville City Council voted in 2021 to donate the statue to the heritage center, after it proposed a Swords into Plowshares project that would melt the statue and repurpose it into "public art that expresses the City's values of inclusivity and racial justice," according to the proposal submitted to the city.

The statue was taken down in 2021 after years of debate and delay.

Protests over the plan to remove the statue morphed into the violent "Unite the Right" rally in 2017. It was during that rally that James Alex Fields Jr., an avowed Hitler admirer, intentionally drove his car into a crowd of counterprotesters, killing 32-year-old Heather Heyer and injuring 19 others. Fields is serving a life sentence.

Two groups that had sought to preserve the statue sued last year to try to block the city from donating it to the heritage center, but a judge tossed out their case. □

Residents of Maine gather to pray and reflect, days after a mass shooting left 18 people dead

By DAVID SHARP, ROBERT F. BUKATY and JAKE BLEIBERG
Associated Press

LEWISTON, Maine (AP) — Church bells rang Sunday as Maine residents gathered to pray, reflect and support one another following a traumatic week in which a fellow Mainer gunned down 18 people in the worst mass killing in state history.

The Rev. Daniel Greenleaf opened worship at the Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Lewiston with a moment of silence. Then, he told the congregation that it was good to be able to finally pray together after days of lockdown imposed while police searched for the 40-year-old gunman, Robert Card.

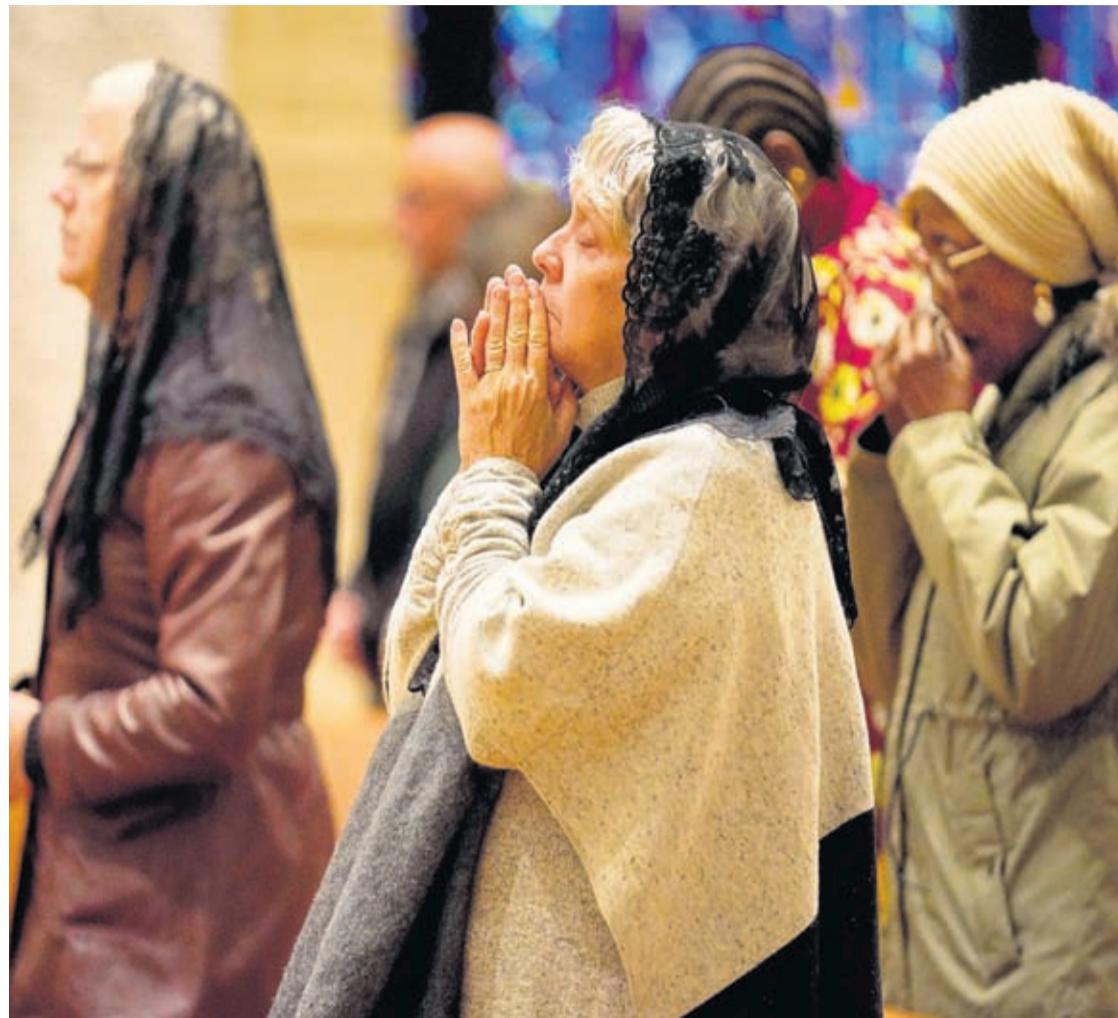
Card's body was found Friday in a trailer at a recycling center in Lisbon Falls. Card died of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound though it was unclear when, authorities said. Card was also suspected of injuring 13 people during the shooting rampage on Wednesday night in Lewiston.

Several women wore black veils in the cavernous sanctuary, where a church official said they are raising funds to help shooting victims and others hurt by "the horrible events in our small town."

"We can see the rays of light in darkness," Greenleaf told those present. He said that it is for times like this that they have "practiced" their faith for.

"We cannot fix this, but then again human beings are not machines to be fixed," Greenleaf added.

At Lisbon Falls Baptist Church, arriving church members warmly greeted each other. But the atmosphere turned somber when the Rev. Brian Ganong brought up the tragedy. He prayed for those fighting for their lives, those who lost family and friends, first responders and medical workers, and others — including the Card family, who he said had ties to some members of the church.



Pam Rousseau, center, and other worshippers pray during a service at the Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, Sunday, Oct. 29, 2023, in Lewiston, Maine. The community is working to heal following shooting deaths of 18 people at a bowling alley and a bar in Lewiston on Wednesday.

(AP Photo/Robert F. Bukaty)

"It did happen. We may never know the reason why," he said, encouraging the congregation to seek solace through a higher being.

After the service, Ganong said it "took one person" to shatter the community's "sense of peace and security."

"They feel violated, right? They feel intruded upon. This has infringed upon their safety," he said. "But I understand that we live in a world that is evil. And it was probably a matter of time before it infringed upon us." Standing outside the Catholic basilica after attending early Mass, Marcel Roy said the last few days have been painful but that he's hopeful the community can begin the long process of healing. "This feels good," Roy said with relief as church bells rang.

The 70-year-old Lewiston resident said that he knew four of the shooting victims and is praying for them as well as the shooter. "I can't hate the guy," he

said of the gunman. "He wasn't brought up as a killer."

Authorities recovered a multitude of weapons during their search for Card and believe he had legally purchased his guns, including those recovered in his car and near his body, said Jim Ferguson, the special agent in charge of the Boston office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. He declined to provide specific details about the guns, including their make and model, and wouldn't say exactly how many were found.

Investigators are still searching for a motive for the massacre, but have increasingly been focused on Card's mental health history. State Department of Public Safety Commissioner Michael Sauschuck said Card had been hearing voices and had paranoia.

Card believed "people were talking about him and there may even have been some voices at play," Sauschuck said.

Family members of Card told federal investigators that he had recently discussed hearing voices and became more focused on the bowling alley and bar, according to law enforcement officials who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity in order to discuss details of the investigation.

Street life began returning to Lewiston in the city of 37,000. Police missed two clear opportunities to end the lockdown sooner, after failing to find Card's body in searches of the recycling center Thursday night and early Friday.

For many residents, Sunday was a day to reflect, mourn and, for some, to take the first tentative steps toward normalcy. Some went hunting on the opening day of firearm season for deer, and one family handed out buckets of flowers in downtown.

Others gathered at a makeshift memorial to the victims down the street from the bar targeted by Card.

But there were still reminders of the shooting.

Over at Schemengees Bar & Grille, one of the shooting sites, workers in white hazmat suits could be seen methodically cleaning up a staircase. Yellow tape surrounded the site and a small memorial had emerged near the bar, featuring colorful balloons, flowers and a poster that read: "Be Strong Lewiston."

Leroy Walker, an Auburn city councilor and father of one of the victims, was greeting people at a trick-or-treat event on Sunday hosted by an organization he leads.

He smiled broadly when the children hugged him, and accepted hugs from community members. But he became emotional when he spoke of his son, Joseph, who normally would've joined him at the event.

"It's been a tough few days, trust me. The heart doesn't stop bleeding," he said. "I miss him every minute. I miss him more every day."

The deadliest shootings in Maine history stunned a state of 1.3 million people that has relatively little violent crime and had only 29 killings in all of 2022.

Three of the injured remained in critical condition at Central Maine Medical Center, and a fourth was stable, hospital officials said. Another patient was transported to Massachusetts General Hospital, and the rest were discharged.

A stay-at-home order in place during the massive search was lifted Friday afternoon, hours before authorities announced they had found Card's body at the Maine Recycling Corp. The Lewiston shootings were the 36th mass killing in the United States this year, according to a database maintained by AP and USA Today in partnership with Northeastern University.

The database includes every mass killing since 2006 from all weapons in which four or more people, excluding the offender, were killed within a 24-hour time frame. □

Pence's early exit from the presidential campaign offers a reminder of Trump's grip on the GOP

By JILL COLVIN and
MICHELLE L. PRICE
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Mike Pence has a resume most White House hopefuls would dream of. A congressman. A governor of a big Midwestern state. A one-time vice president. In normal times, someone with such credentials would be well positioned to win their party's presidential nomination. But these are not normal times and Pence's decision to end his campaign more than two months before the first contest in the Republican primary underscores the extent to which the party has been subsumed by former President Donald Trump and his lies about the 2020 election he lost to Democrat Joe Biden.

Pence made his surprise announcement Saturday in Las Vegas, where he and other GOP presidential hopefuls spoke at a summit sponsored by the Republican Jewish Coalition. But in many ways, Pence's campaign ended years before it officially began, in the days leading up to Jan. 6, 2021. That was when Trump, desperate to hang onto power, became convinced that Pence, as president of the Senate, could somehow reject the election results — a power the then-vice president did not possess.

After spending four years as Trump's loyal defender, Pence was suddenly cast as a traitor, targeted by rioters who stormed the Capitol, some chanting "Hang Mike Pence!" Angry Trump supporters crossed his name off their "Trump-Pence" yard signs or shoved them deep into the ground to bury his name in the dirt. While the issue became less salient as the campaign went on, Pence was heckled and booed at times.

Pence tried to thread what often seemed like an impossibly fine needle. He ran on the record of what he fondly referred to as the Trump-Pence administration while also criticizing his



FILE - President Donald Trump listens as Vice President Mike Pence speaks during a coronavirus task force briefing in the Rose Garden of the White House, Sunday, March 29, 2020, in Washington. (AP Photo/Patrick Semansky, File)

former boss. He accused Trump of abandoning conservative principles on issues such as abortion and of putting himself above the Constitution to stay in power. During his campaign launch event, Pence addressed Jan. 6 head-on, defending his actions and saying Trump disqualified himself during that period. "Anyone that puts themselves over the Constitution should never be president of the United States, and anyone who asks someone else to put them over the Constitution should never be president of the United States again," Pence said. The Wi-Fi password for the media at the event — "KeptHisOath!" — underscored his message, as did the first ad run by a supportive super political action committee, which featured footage from the insurrection, contrasting both men's actions that day.

Though it was never part of his stump speech, Pence's approach to Jan. 6 reflected his advisers' belief that, if he addressed the Capitol attack directly and spent time explaining his position, voters would come to respect his adherence to the

Constitution and see it as a point of strength.

"People respect him for upholding his oath under enormous pressure," Marc Short, a longtime senior adviser, said over the summer. That never translated into support from conservative primary voters, who in polls and focus groups made clear they preferred other options. An Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research from August found 57% of Republicans still believe Biden was illegitimately elected president, while a plurality believed Trump did nothing wrong in the run-up to Jan. 6.

Even at Pence's opening campaign event, many in attendance said they liked and respected him, but had yet to make a decision.

"We always knew there was going to be a large portion of the electorate that was not going to be with him on Jan. 6, but the only way he could tarnish his career and his legacy and reputation was to be untrue to himself," said Devin O'Malley, Pence's longtime spokesman. "Ultimately there was one person who could

change how he'll be perceived through history and that was Mike Pence. And he stayed true to himself and he comes out with his legacy intact."

Pence spent much of his campaign advocating traditional conservative policies, including more U.S. support for Ukraine, even as those ideas have fallen out of favor in a Republican Party increasingly aligned with Trump's populist and isolationist leanings.

All the while, Trump only grew stronger, building his support even as he confronted multiple criminal indictments, including one tied to his efforts to overturn the election.

Supporters and those close to Pence, some of whom were granted anonymity to describe the final weeks of his campaign, said they realized the campaign was effectively over around the time of the second debate in September.

Several expected Pence would see a wave of momentum after the first debate, when he delivered an uncharacteristically pointed performance, tangling, in particular, with tech entrepreneur Vivek

Ramaswamy. But Pence saw no appreciable bump in the polls or fundraising. By the second debate, he was relegated to the far side of the stage.

Then came a campaign finance report that showed just how dire the situation had become. Pence already racked up more than \$600,000 in debt and was burning through nearly as much cash as he was raising, despite an aggressive fundraising schedule.

While Pence staked his campaign on Iowa — where his super PAC had knocked on nearly 600,000 doors — making it to the January caucuses would have required him to go into the kind of debt that might have taken Pence, who is not independently wealthy, years to pay off. Aides insisted he would qualify for the third debate if he tried, but his calendar became suspiciously empty. This past week, Pence began dialing top supporters to let them know that he decided to end the campaign.

"He never got much traction," said Larry Post, a retired money manager from Beverly Hills, California, who was among the Republican donors gathered in Las Vegas.

Pence chose the Republican Jewish Coalition summit — before a friendly crowd that has long appreciated his support for Israel — in part so he could make his case one last time that the U.S. must maintain its leadership role on the world stage to prevent attacks such as the one by Hamas against Israel.

Pence was only polling in the single digits, so his departure is unlikely to give a major boost to any of his rivals. But former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who has been running as the most vocal Trump critic in the race, said it was a sign the field was finally winnowing — something anti-Trump Republicans have long argued must happen for anyone to have a shot at taking on Trump directly. □

On the anniversary of a deadly Halloween crush, South Korean families demand a special investigation

By HYUNG-JIN KIM

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— Bereaved relatives of victims of last year's devastating Halloween crush in Seoul and their supporters demanded an independent investigation of the disaster as they marked the anniversary Sunday with a massive memorial service. The crush, one of the biggest peacetime disasters in South Korea, killed 159 people, most of them in their 20s and 30s who had gathered in Itaewon, a popular nightlife district in Seoul, for Halloween celebrations.

Commemorating the anniversary, the families visited the Itaewon area, laid flowers and offered condolences at an alley where the crush happened. Some wept near a wall where hosts of post-it notes with condolence messages were plastered.

"I'm sorry. I'm sorry that I couldn't protect you. I loved you," Song Jin Young, 55, the father of one of the victims, said.



People hold the signs during a rally marking the first anniversary of the harrowing crowd surge that killed about 160 people in a Seoul alleyway, at the Seoul Plaza in Seoul, South Korea, Sunday, Oct. 29, 2023. The signs read "Find out the truth."

(AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

In Itaewon, accompanied by their supporters, the families also attended multi-faith prayer services for their loved ones. They chanted slogans asking President Yoon Suk Yeol to offer a more sincere apol-

ogy and Safety Minister Lee Sang-min to resign over the disaster.

"Apologize! Apologize!" they shouted.

The group marched through Seoul before arriving at a square for a me-

morial service, which drew thousands of people.

In a speech, Lee Jeong-min, a representative for the families, urged President Yoon to support efforts to legislate a special law to open an indepen-

dent investigation into the disaster. "We did our utmost to raise our children but we couldn't even touch them when they vanished all of sudden. Where can we talk about our resentment toward this reality?" Lee said. "The special law would be the most important legislation to find the cause of the Itaewon disaster and discuss the prevention of recurrences of similar incidents." In speeches, several opposition politicians criticized Yoon for failing to attend the ceremony and vowed to pass the special law to get to the bottom of the tragedy. Some participants reportedly shouted jeers at a ruling party official when he tried to leave after the first half of the ceremony, but there were no reports of major violence.

The memorial ended, with the crowd shouting "We'll remember you" when names of each of the 159 victims were called. They also placed flowers before the photos of the dead at an altar. □

Hundreds of mourners lay flowers at late Premier's Li Keqiang's childhood residence in eastern China

By ZEN SOO Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) —

Hundreds of mourners lined the streets and laid flowers near former Chinese Premier Li Keqiang's childhood residence on Saturday, a day after he died of a heart attack. Li was born in Hefei in the eastern Chinese province of Anhui, where he spent most of his childhood and youth. People came overnight to Li's former residence at Hongxing Road No. 80 with bouquets of chrysanthemums and other flowers. Some bowed in respect, while others cried.

"Everyone is in sorrow," said Fei Wenzhao, who visited the site on Friday night. She said that the flowers laid out stretched 100 meters (yards).

The road leading to the residence was closed to traf-

fic Saturday afternoon to allow people to pay their respects. The line stretched hundreds of meters.

Li, 68, was China's top economic official for a decade, helping navigate the world's second-largest economy through challenges such as rising political, economic and military tensions with the United States and the COVID-19 pandemic.

He was an English-speaking economist and had come from a generation of politicians schooled during a time of greater openness to liberal Western ideas. Introduced to politics during the chaotic 1966-76 Cultural Revolution, he made it into prestigious Peking University, where he studied law and economics, on his own merits rather than through political connections.

He had been seen as former Communist Party leader Hu Jintao's preferred successor as president about a decade ago. But the need to balance party factions prompted the leadership to choose Xi, the son of a former vice premier and party elder, as the consensus candidate.

The two never formed anything like the partnership that characterized Hu's relationship with his premier, Wen Jiabao — or Mao Zedong's with the redoubtable Zhou Enlai — although Li and Xi never openly disagreed over fundamentals. Last October, Li was dropped from the Standing Committee at a party congress despite being more than two years below the informal retirement age of 70. He stepped down in March and was succeed-



Residents look at the flowers placed outside a residential building where the late Chinese Premier Li Keqiang spent his childhood in Hefei city, in central China's Anhui province, Saturday, Oct. 28, 2023. The sudden death of China's former second-ranking leader, Li Keqiang, has shocked many people in the country, with tributes offered up to the ex-official who promised market-oriented reforms but was politically sidelined.

(Chinatopix via AP)

ed by Li Qiang, a crony of Xi's from his days in provincial government.

His departure marked a shift away from the skilled

technocrats who have helped steer China's economy in favor of officials known mainly for their unquestioned loyalty to Xi. □

Hurricane Otis death toll rises to 43, missing now number 36 as search and recovery work continues

(AP) — At least 43 people died when Category 5 Hurricane Otis slammed into Mexico's southern Pacific coast, the governor of hard-hit Guerrero said Sunday as the death toll continued to climb.

Gov. Evelyn Salgado said on X, the platform formerly called Twitter, that the number of missing also rose to 36 from 10 a day earlier. That increase came after authorities had raised the toll to 39 on Saturday.

In Acapulco, families began to bury the dead on Sunday and continued the search for essentials while government workers and volunteers cleared streets clogged with muck and debris from the powerful Category 5 hurricane.

More resources were arriving as searchers recovered more bodies from Acapulco's harbor and from beneath fallen trees and other storm debris.

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said Saturday that his opponents are trying to inflate the toll to damage him politically, but with hundreds of families still awaiting word from loved ones it was likely to keep rising.

Otis roared ashore early Wednesday with devastating 165 mph (266 kph)



A fisherman arrives to a yacht club to join a rescue team in Acapulco, Mexico, Saturday, Oct. 28, 2023, in the aftermath of Hurricane Otis.

(AP Photo/Felix Marquez)

winds after strengthening so rapidly that people had little time to prepare.

Kristian Vera stood on an Acapulco beach Saturday looking out toward dozens of sunken boats, including three of her own, all marked by floating buoys or just poking out of the water.

Despite losing her livelihood in Otis' brutal pass through Mexico's over Pacific coast, the 44-year-old fisher felt fortunate. Earlier in the day, she watched a

body pulled from the water and saw families coming and going, looking for their loved ones.

Many people rode out on boats what had started as a tropical storm and in just 12 hours powered up into a catastrophic Category 5 hurricane.

Vera took turns with four others swimming out with empty gas jugs for flotation to try to raise their sunken boats from the shallow harbor.

Leaning against a small

wooden fishing boat like her own, tipped on its side on a beach strewn with trash and fallen trees, she explained that some of the people who died were either fishermen caring for their boats or yacht captains who were told by their owners that they needed to make sure their boats were OK when Otis was still a tropical storm.

"That night I was so worried because I live off of this, it's how I feed my kids," Vera said.

"But when I began to feel how strong the wind was, I said, 'Tomorrow I won't have a boat, but God willing, Acapulco will see another day.'"

Military personnel and volunteers had worked along Acapulco's main tourist strip Saturday and Salgado announced Sunday that the boulevard had been cleared of debris.

But on the periphery of the city, neighborhoods remained in ruins. Salgado also said that the national electric company reported restoring power to 58% of homes and businesses in Acapulco and 21 water tankers were distributing water to outlying neighborhoods.

Aid has been slow to arrive. The storm's destruction cut off the city of nearly 1 million people for the first day, and because Otis had intensified so quickly on Tuesday little to nothing had been staged in advance. The military presence swelled to 15,000 in the area. López Obrador had called on the armed forces to set up checkpoints in the city to deter looting and robbery.

The federal civil defense agency tallied 220,000 homes that were damaged by the storm, he said. □

Hundreds of Serbian police deploy in border zone with Hungary after deadly shooting among migrants



In this photo provided by the Serbian Interior Ministry, Serbian Interior Minister Bratislav Gasic speaks with police officers near the border between Serbia and Hungary, Serbia, Saturday, Oct. 28, 2023. Serbian police have arrested six people and seized automatic weapons after a shooting between migrants near the country's tense border with Hungary killed three people and injured one.

(Serbian Ministry of Interior via AP)

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) — Hundreds of Serbian officers were dispatched Saturday into a border area with Hungary, where they detained several people after a shooting between migrants killed three people and injured one, police said. Reports of violence and gun battles have become common near the border between Serbia and European Union member nation Hungary. Thousands of migrants have been camping in the area, looking for ways to cross with the help of people smugglers.

Interior Minister Bratislav Gasic, who visited the area, pledged that "we will not move from here until every person responsible for any criminal act or incident is removed." Police actions are aimed at "curbing irregular migration and raising the level of security in this part of the country, where clashes among migrants are frequent, not rarely with the use of firearms," the force said in a statement. Police said they detained two people Saturday from Kosovo who are suspected of smuggling migrants and supplying them

with weapons. Officers also found 54 Turkish passports, the statement added.

Late on Friday, police reported detaining four Afghan and two Turkish nationals suspected of unlawful possession of guns and explosives. It was not immediately clear whether any of the detained people will be charged with the shooting that took place earlier on Friday. Police raided the area and seized two automatic rifles and ammunition. They also found 79 migrants and transferred them to reception centers, the statement said. □



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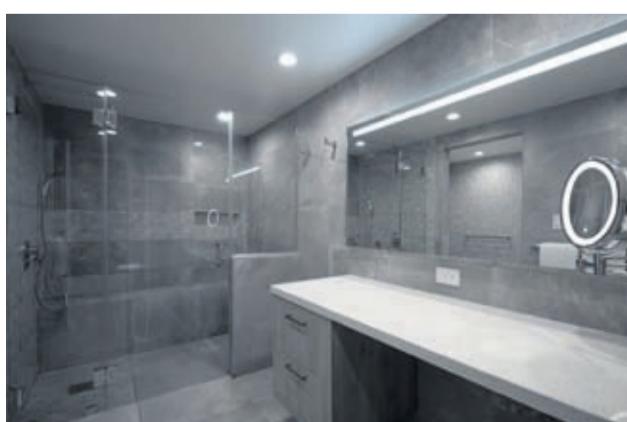
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Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from **Beth Ellyn Rosenthal from Las Vegas, Nevada, USA**.

She wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is ... family. I have three delicious weeks to spend with my grown son Austin. He lives in Austin. I live in Las Vegas. We are both ridiculously busy. But we carve out three weeks every fall to spend time with each other in Aruba. We call this

our "Caribbean staycation" since we have been coming to our unit at the Caribbean Palm Village every year since 1980 (except for 2020.)

After three decades we have friends on the island we always visit. And we coordinate dates with Dutch friends we met at Moomba Beach. Austin has even visited them in the Netherlands. But for me it's the time I get to spend with my grown son. Las Vegas doesn't tempt him. But he will spend time with Mama in Aruba."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! ☐

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Alto Vista chapel and its link to Aruba's origins

According to Etnia Nativia, in the 18th century most of the inhabitants of Aruba were indigenous who lived on the north coast, one of the largest communities lived in Alto Vista.

As they were very religious, they had a chief with the name of Antonio Silvester who guided them in the Christian life and it was he who decided to build a stone chapel with a roof of corn rods, which would serve as a place of prayer. In 1750 it was blessed by Father Algemesi who came from Coro-Venezuela and appointed Domingo Antonio Silvester as the island's first prosecutor in the name of the Spanish crown and Rome. In 1752 the prosecution passed into the hands of Antonio Silvester's son-in-law, Miguel Alvarez, who continued to guide the parishioners in their prayers.

According to the book, The History of Alto Vista by R.H. Nooyen, it is not known



when Domingo Antonio Silvester came to Aruba from Venezuela. The elders believe Antonio was a Spaniard. In 1780, father Joseph Antonio de la Vega called Bernardino Silvester, one of Antonio's sons with his wife Anna Cathalina Tromp, "neighbors and naturals of the island Aruba" and thus they became natives.

At the end of the eighteen century many inhabitants of the island died as a result of the black fever epidemic and since people believed

that the Alto Vista area was the most infected, they began to build their homes further south within the Noord area, so the town of Noord began to grow into a community till getting its own Church. However religious festivals continued to be celebrated at this sacred native place, with the custom of arriving in procession to Alto Vista.

Two-hundred years after the beautiful time of Alto Vista, people can no longer see much of the town

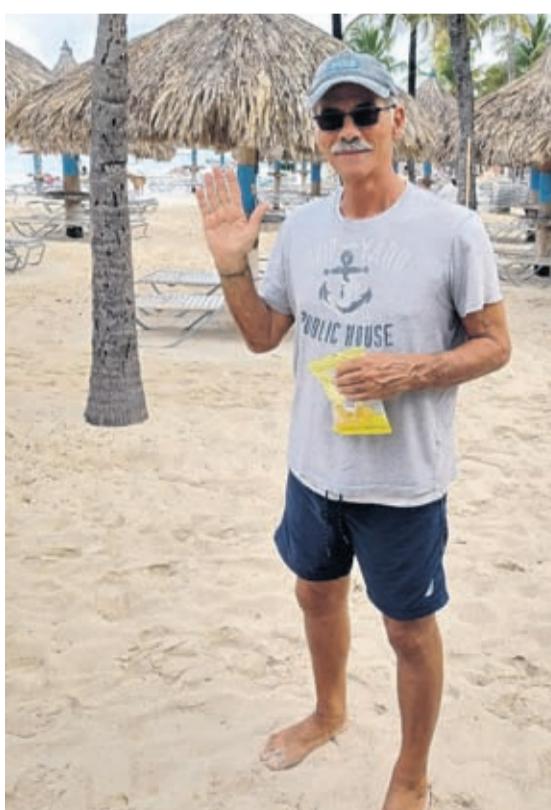
of Alto Vista from 1750. With a lot of work they found the old foundations of the Church of the Queen of the Holiest Rosary to build a new chapel on the same place. The entire surrounding area was empty and desolated, making it hard to imagine that Alto Vista was a town at all. A hundred years later, people can see the remains of around twenty houses, some made of stone and others of clay. Nowadays, only around six of these houses remain.

South of the chapel in the yard two graves can be observed, there was the cemetery which father Pablo de Algemesi blessed. It is not certain, but it is believed that the two graves belong to Antonio Silvester and Miguel Alvarez, according to Nooyen. About 50 meters near the chapel there are still the markings of an old house, where Antonio and Bernardino Silvester would have lived.



About 200 meters from the chapel there is a water tank which the locals call Tanki Cacique. In the past this tank was closed. But mostly water was brought out from the Poz di Noord, a well dug in the sand.

The chapel can be viewed from basically any point in the north side, even from Paradera and Sero Plat. All the historical remains around the chapel provide us with an idea on how the old people of Alto Vista used to live. Don't miss the opportunity to visit a place of historical significance with a window to Aruba's past. □



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For today we received a lovely message from **David Campanile from South Carolina, USA**.

She wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is the friendly people who live here and the most beautiful beaches!"

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The district of Savaneta

A quick history guide to the island's first capital

(Oranjestad)—Before Oranjestad became the island nation's capital, Aruba's first capital was the district of Savaneta. Here is where the cultural identity of Aruba was born, and from where the rest of the island developed into what it is today.

Savaneta is said to have been the first place where the Caquetio inhabitants first stepped foot on the island. Though there isn't hard evidence to back this up, but considering the legend of the Cacique Arua, it is believed that there were already movements on Aruba—and Savaneta—around 88 AD.

The Caquetios probably made their way to the island either from Venezuela, Colombia or other Caribbean islands in the region, but with good weather it was relatively easy for them to travel back and forth in their canoes. So, since the Caquetios discovered the island, Aruba found her first



"Quebracho" (Kibrahacha) tree; used to make dye and paint

form of civilization.

It wasn't until 1499 when Aruba met another group of people who set foot on the island: the Spanish explorer Alonso de Ojeda. De Ojeda first took notice of Aruba off the coast of Venezuela, during his exploration of the Latin American country. This was on August 9th, 1499. However, de Ojeda didn't actually sail to the island till 4 days later, on August 23rd, 1499. This was the beginning of



Commandeursbaai (Commander's Bay) at Savaneta

the Spanish era on Aruba (1499-1636).

Alonso usually didn't stop at every island or land he saw, especially not in the Caribbean. He would often take notice of land from afar and continue sailing. However, Aruba was an exception. He had heard that there were "quebracho" trees on the island, which were commonly used to produce dye or paint. But since these trees could not be found in Savaneta, he continued to search in the area of what is now known as Santa Cruz. The best way to transport the tree

barks was via a route passing through Savaneta, and so the first road between Savaneta and Santa Cruz was made.

The Dutch colonial era (1636-1805)

During the 80-year war between The Netherlands and Spain, Dutch explorers and merchants began to travel to the ABC islands. Once they landed in Aruba, they deported the small Arawakan and Spanish community that was living on the island. This was the beginning of colonization of the ABC islands by the Dutch empire. Around the same, the West Indian Company (WIC) was born. Bonaire and Curacao were mostly used for plantations, where the Dutch had transported slaves from Africa. Aruba, on the other hand, was mostly used to raise cattle and to house the haring factory. The Dutch had often forced the indigenous community to work for them.

In 1636, when the Netherlands won the war against Spain, the country surren-

dered the islands to the Dutch.

The Dutch administration appointed the island's first commander, an Irish man named N. Williams. Because the Dutch were interested in other Caribbean islands and countries in South America, they imported Dutch merchants and business men, all of whom resided in Savaneta. This way, Savaneta officially became the island's first capital.

However, at the end of the 18th century, the commander at the time, J.R. Lauffer, moved his office to what is now "Horse Bay" in Oranjestad. Because the highest office on the island moved away from Savaneta, the capital lost its title to what was called then Playa.

How Savaneta got its name

The name Savaneta probably has a Spanish origin. It was said that when the Spanish climbed a hill called Yara, they saw that the area was mostly open and had no big trees. In Spanish, such a land area is called a "sabana".

Because of its land surface, Savaneta was a great place to construct cattle farms. From here, the farmer culture on Aruba was born. Before the Aruban Gold Rush and the construction of the Refinery in San Nicolas, most residents were farmers, and Savaneta had many inhabitants that farmed fruits and vegetables. They also continued the tradition of raising cattle, like goat, sheep, pigs and horses. Savaneta was one of the first places on the island to have a general farming culture. From this culture, many other traditions were born, like the Dera Gay Holiday that we celebrate every year on June 24th.

Source: Historia di Savaneta (History of Savaneta) by Adolf "Dufi" Kock.

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Alonso de Ojeda

Aruba's underwater wonderland



ORANJESTAD - Exploring the underwater wonders is something you should definitely do during your stay in Aruba. The underwater world has everything to offer that makes a snorkel trip so exceptional; an impressive, colorful sea life with exotic fishes, turtles and beautiful coral reef. The historic shipwrecks, located on the Aruban seabed are also worth a visit. Aruba is known for its white beaches and blue oceans, which means there are many fascinating under water spots, where you can take your snorkeling gear and we selected the top spots for you.

Tres Trapi

Tres Trapi means tree steps in Papiamento, Papiamento is together with Dutch the official language spoken on Aruba. The beach is called Tres Trapi because it is accessible by the tree steps carved

into the rocks. Tres Trapi is a small rocky beach, located on the north-western side of the island, approximately 5 to 10 minute drive from Palm Beach. From the unique steps you can easily walk over the beach into the clear and turquoise blue ocean. While snorkeling you will encounter all kind of tropical fishes and sea stars. The kind of starfish you will find in the Aruban waters is the red cushion sea star. This is a starfish that is commonly found in the shallow waters of the Caribbean sea and if you are lucky during your snorkeling visit to Tres Trapi, you may come across one of the green sea turtles. Respect the animal, keep your distance and enjoy the view. Also remember; it is a once in a life time experience.

Antilla shipwreck

Antilla is a 400-foot-long long ship, built in 1939 in Hamburg, Germany.



Antilla came to Aruba, because it had to find a neutral port. When Germany invaded the Netherlands on May 10, 1940, the crew decided to let their own ship sink, to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Dutch Navy. Antilla lies on its portside in Malmok bay, and the sunken word war two ship is now one of Aruba's most popular snorkeling and dive spots. However, the ship wreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the ship wreck alone is already impressive enough.

Baby Beach

Baby beach; a white beach, with a crystal blue ocean. The beach is located on the southern part of the island. On the way to the famous beach, you will drive through the



old capital of Aruba, San Nicolas. The old Aruban culture can be still felt and experienced here, so do not hesitate to get out of your car and walk around for a while. Baby beach is a child friendly beach, since it is shallow and the water has a pleasant temperature. The name therefore fits well with the beach. Baby beach is an excellent beach for snorkeling, especially if you want to go with small children, because the water remains shallow and there are still many underwater wonders to see. In the ocean there is an area marked until where it is recommended to snorkel and on the beach you will find different facilities. It is a perfect beach to spend your day snorkeling and relaxing.

Mangel Halto

Mangel Halto beach is located in Savaneta, on the southern-west part of the island. The beach is different from the other beaches in Aruba; it is beach full of mangroves. You reach the beach by a bridge through the mangroves and then you will have several entrances to the sea. There are diverse spots where you can enjoy a perfect beach day, wooden stairs made to enter the water and a dock to sit on and enjoy the view. Mangel Halto is also worth a visit for the snorkeling experience. Inside the bay, the water is clear and you find many colorful fish. Outside the bay is a bit more challenging for beginners because of the wind and the waves, but the coral is alive and it is just like snorkel heaven.□



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 40 Japanese

1 Digging

tool

port

42 Silver or

6 Chest

muscles,

for short

gold

43 More

adorable

10 Hayride

transport

44 River

stoppers

11 Visibly

shocked

45 Wails

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Saturday's answer

DOWN

1 Bee group

2 'The

Taming

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Shrew"

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3 Getting on

4 Buck's

mate

5 Tempts

6 Pocket

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7 Sense of

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8 Spot for

snacks on

a train

9 Glisten

12 Wipes

off

17 Numbered

18 Numbered

31 Cries

32 Ease up

33 Game

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34 Flies high

39 "— a

Rock"

41 Take to

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10-30

AXYDI.BAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

10-30

CRYPTOQUOTE

TA H Z M V K L B Q I C Y S E O A

H Z J O T R , R S O M H Z L C Y N L B Q M U

H Z L R N G A B S O M R . — N L W W L G O

R Z G Q M R V M G K M . " O G B T M H Z "

Saturday's Cryptoquote: I'LL STOP WEARING BLACK WHEN THEY MAKE A DARKER COLOR. — WEDNESDAY ADDAMS. "THE ADDAMS FAMILY"

FTX founder Sam Bankman-Fried

acknowledges in court that customers were hurt but denies fraud



In this courtroom sketch, Sam Bankman-Fried testifies on the witness stand in Manhattan federal court, Friday, Oct. 27, 2023, in New York.

(Elizabeth Williams via AP)

By KEN SWEET and
LARRY NEUMEISTER
Associated Press**NEW YORK (AP) —** Sam

Bankman-Fried, testifying at his fraud trial Friday, cast himself as a bumbling cryptocurrency visionary who knew nothing about the industry when he started FTX or about marketing when he became the face of his company and not enough about his businesses to see they were \$10 billion in the hole until shortly before they collapsed.

In Manhattan federal court, the onetime crypto-currency golden boy denied defrauding anyone. Bankman-Fried, 31, acknowledged some failures, saying he made mistakes, large and small, but he also contested testimony by four former top executives who blamed him for the collapse of his businesses last year when a rush of customers withdrew their money, exposing that billions of dollars were missing. "We thought that we might be able to build the best product on the market" and move the crypto ecosystem forward, he said. "It turned out basically the

opposite of that. A lot of people got hurt — customers, employees — and the company ended up in bankruptcy," Bankman-Fried said.

Asked by his lawyer, Mark Cohen, if he defrauded anyone or took customers' funds, Bankman-Fried answered, "No I did not."

Mostly unemotional on the witness stand, Bankman-Fried, who could face decades in prison if he is convicted of all charges, said: "I don't tend to show a lot of freakoutness."

As the day wore on, testimony focused on what happened as Bankman-Fried's businesses sank deeper in debt, even as he spent hundreds of millions of dollars on marketing that included a 2022 Super Bowl commercial featuring comedian Larry David, a partnership with quarterback Tom Brady and a firm that linked him to celebrities.

Bankman-Fried said he was "very surprised" when he learned in October 2022 that Alameda had an \$8 billion debt that he didn't know about, which meant the company's total debt was roughly \$10 billion.

Cohen said he expected to finish questioning his client on Monday. A prosecutor said cross-examination would last into Tuesday. The jury was unlikely to get the case until late next week at the earliest.

The California entrepreneur has pleaded not guilty to conspiracy charges accusing him of diverting billions of dollars from clients and investors to make risky investments, buy luxury housing, engage in a star-studded publicity campaign, and make large political and charitable donations. His testimony became the centerpiece of a defense that has tried to convey that Bankman-Fried had no criminal intent in actions prosecutors say were directly to blame for the collapse last November of businesses Bankman-Fried began creating in 2017 and eventually ran from the Bahamas.

He described himself as "somewhat introverted naturally," but explained that he accidentally became the face of FTX when several interviews "ended up going better than I thought they would."

He said he testified three times before Congress to persuade legislators to create cryptocurrency regulations that would allow products to be marketed directly to Americans.

As requests for interviews became overwhelming, "It was too late to find a new public face for the company. I was the public face," he said.

"I had absolutely no background in marketing. Absolutely no idea," he said.

His lawyer showed jurors a picture of Bankman-Fried with singer Katy Perry, actress Kate Hudson and others at the 2022 Super Bowl in Los Angeles while his client explained that he went to the game because he "thought maybe it would be interesting" and then ended up in the box with celebrities when they saw him and "invited" him in. □

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How extreme weather in the US may have affected the pumpkins you picked this year for Halloween

By MELINA WALLING and BRITTANY PETERSON Associated Press

Hudson, CO. (AP) — Alan Mazzotti can see the Rocky Mountains about 30 miles west of his pumpkin patch in northeast Colorado on a clear day. He could tell the snow was abundant last winter, and verified it up close when he floated through fresh powder alongside his wife and three sons at the popular Winter Park Resort.

But one season of above-average snowfall wasn't enough to refill the dwindling reservoir he relies on to irrigate his pumpkins. He received news this spring that his water delivery would be about half of what it was from the previous season, so he planted just half of his typical pumpkin crop. Then heavy rains in May and June brought plenty of water and turned fields into a muddy mess, preventing any additional planting many farmers might have wanted to do. "By time it started raining and the rain started to affect our reservoir supplies and everything else, it was just too late for this year," Mazzotti said.

For some pumpkin growers in states like Texas, New Mexico and Colorado, this year's pumpkin crop was a reminder of the water challenges hitting agriculture across the Southwest and West as human-caused climate change exacerbates drought and heat extremes. Some farmers lost 20% or more of their predicted yields; others, like Mazzotti, left some land bare. Labor costs and inflation are also narrowing margins, hitting farmers' ability to profit off what they sell to garden centers and pumpkin patches.

This year's thirsty gourds are a symbol of the reality that farmers who rely on irrigation must continue to face season after season: they have to make choices, based on water allotments and the cost of electricity to pump it out of the ground, about which



Alan Mazzotti walks through one of his pumpkin fields Oct. 26, 2023, in Hudson, Colo. For some pumpkin growers in states like Texas, New Mexico and Colorado, this year's pumpkin crop was a reminder of the water challenges hitting agriculture across the Southwest and West as human-caused climate change exacerbates drought and heat extremes.

(AP Photo/Brittany Peterson)

acres to plant and which crops they can gamble on to make it through hotter and drier summers.

Pumpkins can survive hot, dry weather to an extent, but this summer's heat, which broke world records and brought temperatures well over 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius) to agricultural fields across the country, was just too much, said Mark Carroll, a Texas A&M extension agent for Floyd County, which he calls the "pumpkin capital" of the state.

"It's one of the worst years we've had in several years," Carroll said. Not only did the hot, dry weather surpass what irrigation could make up for, but pumpkins also need cooler weather to be harvested or they'll

start to decompose during the shipping process, sometimes disintegrating before they even arrive at stores. America's pumpkin powerhouse, Illinois, had a successful harvest on par with the last two years, according to the Illinois Farm Bureau. But this year it was so hot into the harvest season in Texas that farmers had to decide whether to risk cutting pumpkins off the vines at the usual time or wait and miss the start of the fall pumpkin rush. Adding to the problem, irrigation costs more as groundwater levels continue to drop — driving some farmers' energy bills to pump water into the thousands of dollars every month.

Mazzotti, for his part, says that with not enough wa-

ter, you "might as well not farm" — but even so, he sees labor as the bigger issue. Farmers in Colorado have been dealing with water cutbacks for a long time, and they're used to it. However, pumpkins can't be harvested by machine like corn can, so they require lots of people to determine they're ripe, cut them off the vines and prepare them for shipping.

He hires guest workers through the H-2A program, but Colorado recently instituted a law ensuring farmworkers to be paid overtime — something most states don't require. That makes it tough to maintain competitive prices with places where laborers are paid less, and the increasing costs of irrigation and supplies stack onto that, creating what Mazzotti calls a "no-win situation."

He'll keep farming pump-

kins for a bit longer, but

"there's no future after me,"

he said. "My boys won't

farm." □

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'Friends' creators, actors, family mourn Matthew Perry: 'The One Where Our Hearts Are Broken'

(AP) — Matthew Perry was widely mourned this weekend by friends, co-stars and some very famous fans, including his childhood classmate, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau; his "Friends" mom Morgan Fairchild; and even Adele.

Perry, who played Chandler Bing on NBC's "Friends" for 10 seasons, was found dead at his Los Angeles home on Saturday. He was 54.

"This truly is The One Where Our Hearts Are Broken," "Friends" co-creators Marta Kauffman and David Crane, along with executive producer Kevin Bright, said in a joint statement Sunday.

"We are shocked and deeply, deeply saddened by our beloved friend Matthew's passing," Kauffman, Crane and Bright wrote. "We will always cherish the joy, the light, the blinding intelligence he brought to every moment - not just to his work, but in life as well. He was always the funniest person in the room. More than that, he was the sweetest, with a giving and selfless heart."

Perry's family also gave a statement to People Magazine, writing that they are heartbroken by the loss.

"Matthew brought so much joy to the world, both as an actor and a friend," the family said. "You all meant so much to him and we appreciate the tremendous outpouring of love." Others, some who

knew him, some who didn't, took to social media to express their grief.

Trudeau, who attended elementary school with Perry while their parents worked together, wrote a tribute on X, formerly Twitter.

"I'll never forget the school-yard games we used to play, and I know people around the world are never going to forget the joy he brought them," Trudeau wrote. "Thanks for all the laughs, Matthew. You were loved — and you will be missed."

Perry's mother served as press secretary to Trudeau's father, Pierre Trudeau, during his time as prime minister.

Adele took a moment to talk about him during her show in Las Vegas on Saturday night. She recalled how his work made her laugh and said that even though she'd never met him, there is a strange thing that happens sometimes when an entertainer dies that makes you feel personally sad. "I just want to say how much I love what he did for us," she said to the cheering crowd. Saturday Night Live also showed a tribute card for Perry during the weekend's episode. Perry once hosted the show, in 1997, which featured one sketch where he played Matt LeBlanc's character Joey and Colin Quinn played Chandler.

Fairchild, who played Chandler's mother on "Friends" wrote on X, that she was



FILE - Matthew Perry arrives at the premiere of "The Invention of Lying" in Los Angeles on Monday, Sept. 21, 2009. Perry, who starred as Chandler Bing in the hit series "Friends," has died. He was 54. The Emmy-nominated actor was found dead of an apparent drowning at his Los Angeles home on Saturday, according to the Los Angeles Times and celebrity website TMZ, which was the first to report the news. Both outlets cited unnamed sources confirming Perry's death. His publicists and other representatives did not immediately return messages seeking comment.

(AP Photo/Matt Sayles, File)

"heartbroken about the untimely death of my 'son'."

"The loss of such a brilliant young actor is a shock. I'm sending love & condolences to his friends & family, especially his dad," Fairchild wrote. She had also worked with Perry's father, actor John Bennett Perry, on several television series.

Another frequent "Friends" co-star, Maggie Wheeler, who played his girlfriend Janice, wrote, "The joy you brought to so many in your too short lifetime will live on. I feel very blessed by every creative moment we shared."

Selma Blair, who also ap-

peared on an episode of "Friends," posted on Instagram that she was "broken hearted."

"My oldest boy friend," Blair wrote. "All of us loved Matthew Perry, and I did especially. Every day. I loved him unconditionally. And he me. And I'm broken. Broken hearted. Sweet dreams Matty. Sweet dreams."

Many Hollywood actors crossed paths with Perry, who had worked steadily on screen since he was a child.

Wendell Pierce, who worked with Perry on "The Odd Couple," wrote on X that for two years, "Matthew Perry was my

boss, my colleague, and a giving, kind, funny man. I pray and hope he is at peace." Shannen Doherty shared a photo on Instagram and reflected on their friendship, which extended back to an appearance on "Beverly Hills 90210," and included a Valentine's Day date in Malibu once.

"We were a gang way back. We all grew up together going to the Formosa ... We played dare and Matt had to say ridiculous things to girls at the bar. We just always had fun and supported each other. You would always find us all together in a booth speaking in our own made up language. And yes, Matt always had THAT sense of humor," Doherty wrote. "I could be more poetic or say things better but right now, shock and sadness prevail."

Gwyneth Paltrow, writing on Instagram, recalled meeting Perry at the Williamstown Theater Festival in the summer of 1993, where they were both doing plays. The "Friends" pilot had been shot but not yet aired. The actor and lifestyle guru recalled Perry as funny, sweet and fun to be with.

"We drove out to swim in creeks, had beers in the local college bar, kissed in a field of long grass. It was a magical summer," she wrote. "I am super sad today, as so many of us are. I hope Matthew is at peace at long last. I really do." □



In this Saturday, Oct. 28, 2023, photo provided by the Florida Keys News Bureau, a large-scale unicorn duo presides over a crew of costumed "construction workers" during the Fantasy Fest Parade in Key West, Fla. Attracting tens of thousands of spectators, the elaborate procession highlighted subtropical island's 10-day Fantasy Fest costuming and masking festival that ends Sunday, Oct. 29. (Rob O'Neal/Florida Keys News Bureau via AP)

Florida's 'Fantasy Fest' ends with increased emphasis on costumes and less on decadence

KEY WEST, Fla. (AP) — The 10-day Fantasy Fest costuming and masking celebration ends late Sunday in Key West, after some 100 events with an increased emphasis on imaginative costuming and decreases in past years' decadence. Tens of thousands of spectators thronged the subtropical island's historic downtown Saturday night for Fantasy Fest's highlight event, a parade featuring over 40 motorized floats and costumed marching groups. Illustrating the festival's move

toward a more PG-rated focus, its 2023 theme was "Uniforms and Unicorns ... 200 Years of Sailing into Fantasy," in salute to the Florida Keys' bicentennial and that of the U.S. Navy's presence in Key West. "The parade really demonstrated the festival's direction away from decadent aspects and into good fun and off-the-charts creativity," said Fantasy Fest director Nadene Grossman Orr. "It feels like Fantasy Fest has entered a new era of creative expression." Pa-

rade standouts included a uniformed group with huge blue wings depicting the Navy's elite Blue Angels Flight Demonstration Squadron, dancers in unicorn head-dresses performing intrepid acrobatic feats, and an elaborate float and marching ensemble portraying a Kentucky Derby for unicorns. Among other notable entries were a "litter" of elaborately costumed cats and a troupe dressed as characters from the blockbuster film "Barbie." □

Not so fast! Wrong distance means no world record in women's walk race at Pan Am Games

(AP) — Peru's Kimberly García seemed skeptical she'd set the world record in the women's 20 kilometers walk race at the Pan American Games. She later found out she didn't.

Organizers of the largest multi-sports event on the continent said in a statement the times of the race were annulled due to "a measuring problem" in Santiago's O'Higgins Park. They blamed the Association of Pan American Athletics for the mistake.

Athletes believe the distance they ran in Chile was about 3 kilometers (almost 1.9 miles) shorter. The mistake adds to Santiago's woes in the organization of the Pan American Games, which started on Oct. 20 and end on Nov. 5.

García finished her race in a cold and damp morning in 1 hour, 12 minutes and 26 seconds. The record belongs to China's Jiayu Yang in 1 hour, 23 minutes and 49 seconds.

The 30-year-old Garcia still celebrated her gold medal after what she called "a serious mistake" she had never experienced in her decorated career, which includes a world championship in the 20 kilometers race.

"We realized it since the first kilometer. The time did not coincide with the distance. It was more about us focusing on our feelings not to lose control," Garcia said after the race. "It didn't affect myself alone, I wanted the Pan American record. Other girls wanted a spot in the Olympic Games. It is a shame that will not happen because the weather, everything was fit for good timings."

Eleven other competitors seemingly finished their race below the world record.

"We do control our pace a lot and right out of the gate, in our first lap, we say the pace was too strong. It was quicker than the men's," said Brazilian Viviane Lyra, who finished fourth. "We knew there was something strange, so our



Associated Press

goal wasn't even taking the timing into consideration." The Pan American Games organization said it filled its role by hiring Marcelo Ithurralde, an expert commissioned by the associa-

tion, to take the measurements for the race.

"He did not take accurate measurements of the route the athletes took during the race," organizers said. "We deeply regret the incon-

venience for the athletes, their coaches, the public and the attending press, but this situation cannot be attributed to the Organizing Committee."

The Association of Pan American Athletics didn't respond to a request for comment.

Organization problems at the Pan American Games have included trash scattered outside competition venues in the four days following the Opening Ceremony, threats of a strike from the private security company working the events and a leak in the handball venue of Viña del Mar, outside Santiago.

The leak cut short Satur-

day's women's handball match between Chile and Brazil. The Brazilians won 30-10 and will play the final against Argentina. The organization of the games in Santiago said in another statement that the leaks aren't their fault, either.

"At night and this morning, there have been repairs in the roof of the gymnasium to avoid the water leaks on the court's surface," the organizers said in a statement, adding that "(we) don't have any responsibility about the bad quality and the issues of the venue's ceiling."

Organizers blamed the city of Viña del Mar for the problems. □

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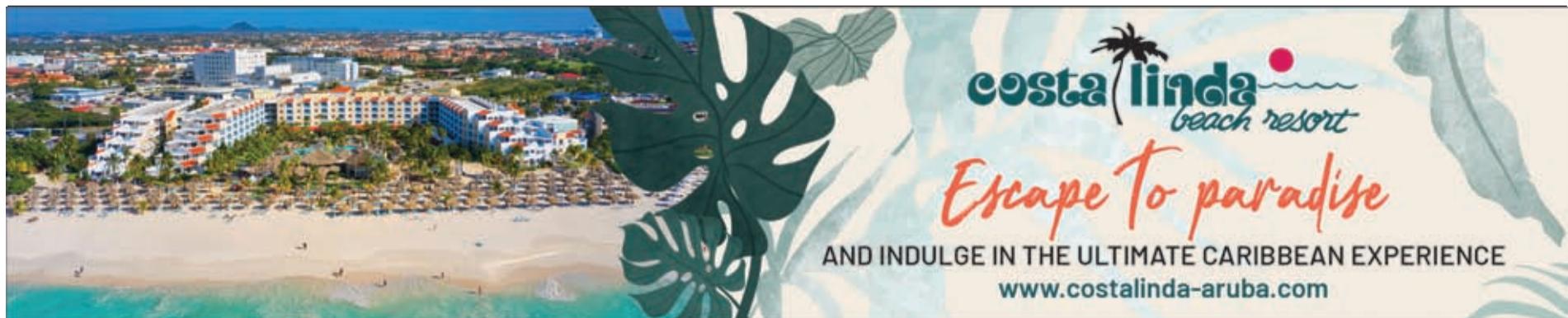
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Eagle Beach – When you think of a restaurant that pleases the needs of a whole family or a large group of people with all different tastes? Think Water's Edge Restaurant. Located at the shore of Aruba's most wonderful beach, The Eagle Beach Aruba. Water's Edge Restaurant is guaranteed to serve you a fantastic magical night to remember. Whether you prefer to enjoy the view from indoors air conditioned comfort, outdoors in the soft tropical breeze or under a palapa with your toes in the sand. This spectacular restaurant offers the best ocean view sunset or sky full of stars dinner while the crispy Caribbean night wind caresses your face and plays with your hair.

From the minute you arrive there will be a great staff welcoming you with the most contagious smiles and warmth. The intense menu with a great variety of appetizers, main courses and delicious desserts will not disappoint. Seafood, Steaks and international favorites. All on one menu specially made just for you.

Culinary Voyage

Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy Calamari or the mouthwatering creamy Garlic Tarragon Shrimp.

You can also opt for a classic French Onion Soup, a Lobster Bisque or the famously Water's Edge House Wedge, a crisp wedge of fresh romaine lettuce topped with homemade blue cheese dressing, diced tomatoes, chopped bacon, caramelized pecans and blue cheese crumbles, drizzled with balsamic reduction. This followed by the Chef's special of seafood such as Fresh salmon filet seasoned and grilled, topped with lemon cilantro butter and served with homemade mashed potatoes and fresh asparagus, a nice plate of Ahi Tuna or a succulent pasta dish like the Florentina Fettuccine Alfredo. Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of a devourable 22oz. Bone-In "Tomahawk" Rib-Eye, pan seared in garlic infused oil and finished in the oven or our juicy N.Y Strip Loin, seasoned & grilled. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi glace, mushroom sauce, or bacon blue cheese butter. For extra sides the options are delectable. Fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, mashed or baked potatoes, fries or rice and beans. Combine your personal choice with one of the most exclusive wine from the

great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests. To end the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness, the desserts are wild. From a piece of coconut flan, NY cheese cake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with chocolate sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.

Creating memories

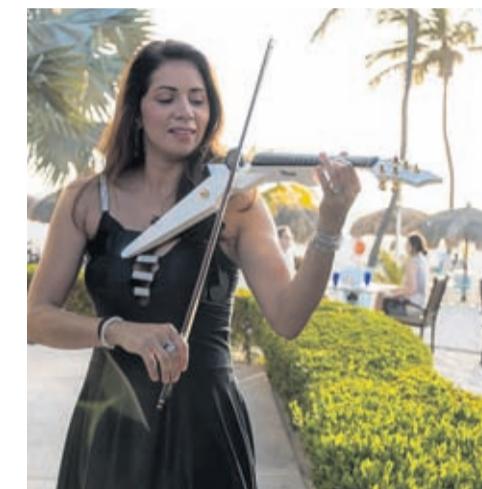
If you are planning a birthday dinner, here you will receive a nice bottle of champagne to take home with you to extend your experience even further whether on the beach or your own private balcony.

Live entertainment

Just about every day of the week, there is a different live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a romantic mood, or more in a swinging mood, there is absolutely a night especially for you where you can combine great music with delicious cocktails mixed with concoctions. In addition, Water's Edge offers three daily Happy Hours from 12pm-1pm, 4pm-6pm and again from 9pm-10pm with all premium brands specially priced.

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Whether you join us for breakfast, lunch or dinner, Water's Edge Restaurant & Bar offers a relaxed and inspirational dining experience overlooking the beautiful Eagle Beach with spectacular ocean views. Gather with friends and family for drinks and appetizers or a night of pampering and relaxation.



Thank you to all our guests

From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to Thank all of our guests who showed us so much love and support all throughout the year, and hopefully will continue to do so in the years to come. What we are most grateful for is that we could get back to doing what we love, which is looking after our guests. So, thank you for every dinner, lunch, breakfast, every to-go order, every glass of wine, every birthday, anniversary and date-night that you spent with us this last year. To our new guests, Welcome! We hope you to see you back soon! □



"Water's Edge Restaurant is where magnificent beach views, amazing food and excellent service come together."

Water's Edge is open daily from 8am – 11pm

To reserve your table please call **+297 583-8000 / ext 8106** or direct line **+297 586-9494**

For more information about the menus, entertainment and hours, please visit the website watersedge-aruba.com

